

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Metro Area Unemployment Rates Continue Rising

### *Job Growth Remains Slow*

#### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area                    | December 2015 | December 2014 | Over-the-Year Change |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington                          | 5.4%          | 4.8%          | 0.6                  |
| Carbondale-Marion                    | 6.5%          | 6.0%          | 0.5                  |
| Champaign-Urbana                     | 5.4%          | 5.0%          | 0.4                  |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights | 5.6%          | 5.6%          | 0.0                  |
| Danville                             | 7.4%          | 7.0%          | 0.4                  |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL  | 5.9%          | 5.9%          | 0.0                  |
| Decatur                              | 7.4%          | 7.0%          | 0.4                  |
| Elgin                                | 6.2%          | 6.0%          | 0.2                  |
| Kankakee                             | 7.0%          | 6.8%          | 0.2                  |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI                  | 5.8%          | 5.7%          | 0.1                  |
| Peoria                               | 7.0%          | 6.2%          | 0.8                  |
| Rockford                             | 7.2%          | 6.9%          | 0.3                  |
| Springfield                          | 5.4%          | 5.3%          | 0.1                  |
| St. Louis (IL-Section)               | 6.1%          | 6.1%          | 0.0                  |
| Illinois Statewide                   | 5.9%          | 5.8%          | 0.1                  |

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO** –Illinois jobs decreased in six metropolitan areas and unemployment rates increased in eleven regions, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The unemployment rate remained the same in three areas and one metro area saw no change in non farm jobs. The not seasonally adjusted data compares over-the-year change from December 2015 with December 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in areas including the Quad Cities (-2.4 percent, -4,500), Decatur (-1.8 percent, -900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.3 percent, -700), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.3 percent, -5,100). Illinois businesses added jobs in seven metros including Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,100), Champaign-Urbana (+0.8 percent, +900), Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+0.7 percent or +26,800), and Danville (+0.7 percent, +200). Two industries recorded job growth: Education and Health Services (nine sectors) and Leisure and Hospitality (eight sectors).

“Illinois took another hit on jobs and many metro areas continue to absorb these hits,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Since the

previous jobs peak in 2007, only three out of fourteen metro areas have regained the jobs lost during the recession.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in December 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in December and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

#### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – December 2015

| Metropolitan Area                                   | December 2015* | December 2014** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington MSA                                     | 95,100         | 95,000          | 100                  |
| Carbondale-Marion MSA                               | 54,500         | 55,200          | -700                 |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA                                | 110,600        | 109,700         | 900                  |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division | 3,658,100      | 3,631,300       | 26,800               |
| Danville MSA  | 29,700         | 29,500          | 200                  |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA                    | 179,500        | 184,000         | -4,500               |
| Decatur MSA   | 50,300         | 51,200          | -900                 |
| Elgin Metro Division                                | 255,700        | 251,600         | 4,100                |
| Kankakee MSA  | 45,700         | 45,700          | 0                    |
| Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division           | 396,400        | 401,500         | -5,100               |
| Peoria MSA  | 178,700        | 178,400         | 300                  |
| Rockford MSA  | 152,000        | 152,300         | -300                 |
| Springfield MSA                                     | 112,900        | 112,400         | 500                  |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA                   | 230,500        | 231,400         | -900                 |
| Illinois Statewide                                  | 5,949,700      | 5,951,300       | -1,600               |

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

- (continued) -

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates  
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

|                             | <b>Dec.<br/>2015</b> | <b>Dec.<br/>2014</b> | <b>Over-<br/>the-Year<br/>Change</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Champaign-Urbana MSA</b> | 5.4%                 | 5.0%                 | 0.4                                  |
| Champaign County            | 5.4%                 | 5.0%                 | 0.4                                  |
| Ford County                 | 5.8%                 | 5.0%                 | 0.8                                  |
| Piatt County                | 5.3%                 | 4.8%                 | 0.5                                  |
| <b>Danville MSA</b>         | 7.4%                 | 7.0%                 | 0.4                                  |
| Vermilion County            | 7.4%                 | 7.0%                 | 0.4                                  |
| <b>Cities</b>               |                      |                      |                                      |
| Champaign City              | 5.2%                 | 4.9%                 | 0.3                                  |
| Urbana City                 | 5.4%                 | 5.4%                 | 0.0                                  |
| Danville City               | 8.0%                 | 7.2%                 | 0.8                                  |
| <b>Counties</b>             |                      |                      |                                      |
| Clark County                | 6.6%                 | 6.3%                 | 0.3                                  |
| Coles County                | 6.4%                 | 5.6%                 | 0.8                                  |
| DeWitt County               | 6.2%                 | 5.6%                 | 0.6                                  |
| Douglas County              | 5.4%                 | 4.9%                 | 0.5                                  |
| Edgar County                | 6.6%                 | 6.4%                 | 0.2                                  |
| Iroquois County             | 6.2%                 | 5.6%                 | 0.6                                  |
| McLean County               | 5.3%                 | 4.8%                 | 0.5                                  |
| Macon County                | 7.4%                 | 7.0%                 | 0.4                                  |
| Moultrie County             | 4.9%                 | 4.4%                 | 0.5                                  |
| Sangamon County             | 5.4%                 | 5.3%                 | 0.1                                  |
| Shelby County               | 6.9%                 | 5.9%                 | 1.0                                  |

## East Central Illinois Highlights

### Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 4,800 positions in December and approximately 84 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Numerous job opportunities were available in Transportation, Health Care, Sales, and Office Support Occupations at the end of 2015. Employment openings were also advertised for Education, Computer, and Management occupations. Installation, Maintenance, and Repair workers were also in demand. Many jobs were advertised in Food Service, Engineering, Business and Financial, and Production occupations. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

### Champaign-Urbana MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.4 percent in December 2015 from 5.0 percent in December 2014. In December 2015 there were an estimated 6,600 unemployed in the labor force.

Non-farm employment increased from its year-ago level by +900. Educational-Health Services (+700), Leisure-Hospitality (+600), Government (+300), and Retail Trade (+100) recorded job gains. Information (-400), Manufacturing (-100), Wholesale Trade (-100), Mining and Construction (-100), and Financial Activities (-100) recorded an employment loss from December 2014.

### Danville MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.4 percent in December 2015 from 7.0 percent in December 2014. In December 2015 there were an estimated 2,700 unemployed in the labor force.

Non-farm employment increased from its year-ago level by +200. Manufacturing (+500), Federal Government (+100), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+100) recorded job gains. Leisure-Hospitality (-200), Retail Trade (-200), and Financial Activities (-100) recorded an employment loss since December 2014.

### Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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